

Homeland Security of the House of Representatives. The report required under this section shall include—

(1) an explicit plan establishing specific and detailed milestones for accomplishing the joint investment and infrastructure sharing goals of the Integrated Wireless Network funded in this title under the heading “Tactical Law enforcement Wireless Communications”, with dates for the planned completion of such goals and the funds linked to achieving those milestones;

(2) a description of the technical standards and logical integration points between the law enforcement and emergency communications systems of the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of the Treasury needed to support and achieve interoperability between the respective communications systems when interoperability is required for tactical reasons or emergency situations; and

(3) an explanation of how the Integrated Wireless Network concept will promote interoperability with other federal departments and State and local governments, including an explanation of how an Integrated Wireless Network will be included in the framework of the Emergency Communications Preparedness Center.

SA 2683. Mr. CHAMBLISS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2847, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used for the purposes of transferring to, releasing into, or detaining or prosecuting in the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, or the District of Columbia any individual who is detained, as of April 30, 2009, at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

SA 2684. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2847, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act for the Department of Justice may be used by any office within the Department of Justice for any anonymous public relations activity, including publishing articles or comments online on any website, weblog or blog, newspapers, or any other social media site, absent a statement identifying the author as an employee of the Department of Justice and that taxpayer dollars were used to fund the post.

(b) In this section, the term “public relations activity” does not include clandestine activities of any Department of Justice components operating under the direction of the Intelligence Community or as part of an ongoing and active investigation.

SA 2685. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2847, making appropriations for the Departments of

Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 170, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

SEC. 220. (a) For an additional amount for the Executive Office for Immigration Review \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out the Legal Orientation Program of the Office.

(b) All amount appropriated under this Act, except for amounts appropriated for the Executive Office for Immigration Review, shall be reduced on a pro rata basis by the amount necessary to reduce the total amount appropriated under this Act, except for amounts appropriated for the Executive Office of Immigration of Review in this title under the heading “ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW AND APPEALS” by \$2,000,000.

SA 2686. Mr. CARPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2847, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 110, line 7, strike “activities.” and insert “activities: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this or any other Act for any fiscal year for the collection of census data may be used to ask questions that the Secretary of Commerce determines would inhibit the ability of the Bureau of the Census to comply with its constitutional mandate to count the whole number of persons residing in each State.”.

SA 2687. Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2847, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. ADMISSION OF NONIMMIGRANT NURSES.

(a) 3-YEAR EXTENSION FOR ADMISSION OF NONIMMIGRANT NURSES IN HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS.—Section 2(e)(2) of the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act of 1999 (8 U.S.C. 1182 note) is amended by striking “3 years” and inserting “6 years”.

(b) NURSE SHORTAGE FEE.—Section 212(m)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(m)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(G)(i) In addition to the fee authorized under subparagraph (F), the Secretary of Labor shall impose a filing fee of \$1,000 on each petitioning employer who uses a visa under subparagraph (A).

“(ii) Fees collected under this subparagraph shall be deposited as offsetting receipts in a fund established in the Treasury of the United States to support the Nurse Faculty Loan Program authorized under section 846A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 297n–1).

“(iii) No fee shall be imposed for the use of such visas if the employer demonstrates to the Secretary that the employer is a health care facility that has been designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area facility

by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 332 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e)”.

SA 2688. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2847, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 203, between lines 23 and 24, insert the following:

SEC. 533. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS TO MOVE THE MARINE OPERATIONS CENTER-PACIFIC.

No funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to move the Marine Operations Center-Pacific more than 150 miles from where it was located on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2689. Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2847, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 108, line 14, before the period at the end, insert “: *Provided further*, That the funds appropriated by this Act for trade adjustment assistance for communities shall not be allocated among the regional offices of the Economic Development Administration until such time as 50 percent of the total amount of the funds appropriated for that purpose by the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111–32), or 50 percent of the funds allocated to any individual regional office, have been distributed to grantees: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall reevaluate the spending plan for trade adjustment assistance based on up-to-date economic data before allocating those funds among the regional offices”.

SA 2690. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2847, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 125, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

SEC. 111. (a) The amount made available in this title for the National Marine Fisheries Service under the heading “OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES” is hereby reduced by \$8,000,000.

(b) None of funds made available in this Act may be used for activities related to Atlantic salmon.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public

that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, at 9:45 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on the costs and benefits for energy consumers and energy prices associated with the allocation of greenhouse gas emission allowances.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by e-mail to Gina_Weinstock@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Jonathan Black at (202) 224-6722 or Gina Weinstock at (202) 224-5684.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a business meeting has been scheduled before Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The business meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2009, at 11:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the business meeting is to consider pending nominations.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224-7571 or Amanda Kelly at (202) 224-6836.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 13, 2009, at 10 a.m., in room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 13, 2009, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for 2009 third quarter Mass Mailings is Monday, October 26, 2009. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states "none."

Mass mailing registrations, or negative reports, should be submitted to the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510-7116.

The Public Records office will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the filing

date to accept these filings. For further information, please contact the Public Records office at (202) 224-0322.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE BUDGET REFORM AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2009

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate a message from the House with respect to H.R. 1016.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the House as follows:

H.R. 1016

Resolved, That the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1016) entitled "An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide advance appropriations authority for certain accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes," with the following amendment:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the amendment of the Senate, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. PRESIDENT'S BUDGET SUBMISSION.

Section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(36) information on estimates of appropriations for the fiscal year following the fiscal year for which the budget is submitted for the following medical care accounts of the Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs account:

"(A) Medical Services.

"(B) Medical Support and Compliance.

"(C) Medical Facilities."

SEC. 3. ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CERTAIN MEDICAL CARE ACCOUNTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 116 the following new section:

"§117. Advance appropriations for certain medical care accounts

"(a) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year, beginning with fiscal year 2011, discretionary new budget authority provided in an appropriations Act for the medical care accounts of the Department shall—

"(1) be made available for that fiscal year; and

"(2) include, for each such account, advance discretionary new budget authority that first becomes available for the first fiscal year after the budget year.

"(b) ESTIMATES REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall include in documents submitted to Congress in support of the President's budget submitted pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, detailed estimates of the funds necessary for the medical care accounts of the Department for the fiscal year following the fiscal year for which the budget is submitted.

"(c) MEDICAL CARE ACCOUNTS.—For purposes of this section, the term 'medical care accounts of the Department' means the following medical care accounts of the Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs account:

"(1) Medical Services.

"(2) Medical Support and Compliance.

"(3) Medical Facilities.

"(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than July 31 of each year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress an annual report on the sufficiency of the

Department's resources for the next fiscal year beginning after the date of the submittal of the report for the provision of medical care. Such report shall also include estimates of the workload and demand data for that fiscal year."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 113 the following new line:

"117. Advance appropriations for certain medical care accounts."

SEC. 4. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW OF THE ACCURACY OF VA MEDICAL CARE BUDGET SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO BASELINE HEALTH CARE MODEL PROJECTION.

(a) REVIEW OF ACCURACY OF MEDICAL CARE BUDGET SUBMISSION.—The Comptroller General shall conduct a review of each budget of the President for a fiscal year that is submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31 in order to assess whether or not the relevant components of the amounts requested in such budget for such fiscal year for the medical care accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs specified in section 117(c) of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 3, are consistent with estimates of the resources required by the Department for the provision of medical care and services in such fiscal year, as forecast using the Enrollee Health Care Projection Model, or other methodologies used by the Department.

(b) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of each year in 2011, 2012, and 2013, on which the President submits the budget request for the next fiscal year under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs, Appropriations, and the Budget of the Senate and the Committees on Veterans' Affairs, Appropriations, and the Budget of the House of Representatives and to the Secretary a report on the review conducted under subsection (a).

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report under this paragraph shall include, for the fiscal year beginning in the year in which such report is submitted, the following:

(A) An assessment of the review conducted under subsection (a).

(B) The basis for such assessment.

(C) Such additional information as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

(3) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—Each report submitted under this subsection shall also be made available to the public.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I am very pleased that the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees have worked out an agreement on S. 423 and H.R. 1016, the proposed Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009. With the President's signature, this vital piece of legislation, which I will refer to as the "Compromise Agreement," will authorize, beginning in fiscal year 2011, advance appropriations for certain medical care accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs by providing 2 fiscal year budget authority.

This compromise agreement will provide sufficient, timely, and predictable health care funding to those who have sacrificed a great deal for this Nation. By ensuring advanced appropriations to the medical services, medical support and compliance, and medical facilities accounts, VA will be able to better align its funding cycles and function more effectively.

The VA system has experienced recurrent problems with receiving proper